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Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

JAMES H. ANDERSON
OPENING STATEMENT

Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to be here today.

I am thankful for the confidence that President Trump and Secretary Esper have placed in me as the nominee for Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

I would not be here today without the support of family, friends, and mentors who have helped me throughout my career.

My parents, Barbara and Michael Anderson, instilled in me the value of hard work, honesty, and respect for others. My sister, Winnifred, and her wonderful family, continue to provide much love and support.

My children, James and Olivia, inspire me every day. Watching them grow and mature is the best part of being a parent. Most of all, I wish to thank my wife Emily Anderson, who is watching these proceedings from a quiet, little hamlet we call home in Northern Virginia. She knows well the sacrifices Pentagon positions demand, to include the before dawn departures and after dusk returns. Her love and support make everything worthwhile.

My professional experience has helped prepare me for this opportunity. Since my confirmation as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities in August 2018, I have worked to implement our National Defense Strategy. If confirmed as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, I will continue these efforts in a new role.

I'm now in my second Pentagon tour, having served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2001-2009, mostly working Middle East issues in International Security Affairs.

My professional experience has taught me the value of asking hard questions – and the importance of seeking practical solutions. I have taught national security topics at several civilian and military educational institutions, to include the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies in Germany. Living overseas and working at this jewel of an institution reinforced the importance of working with allies and partners.

Earlier in my career, I served three years on active duty as a Marine Corps officer in the late 1980s, an experience that imprinted upon me the importance of teamwork and esprit de corps. The opportunity to work alongside dedicated professionals in defense of our great country inspired me then, just as it does now.

The current COVID-19 crisis has brought about many new challenges to the Department. The Policy team in the Pentagon, working with its partners in the building and across the interagency, has risen to the occasion and continues to provide the Secretary of Defense with timely, top quality advice and support. I am privileged to be part of this team.

The Department of Defense issued its National Defense Strategy in January 2018, and it remains our North Star. The document clearly outlines priorities to ensure our nation's competitive advantage amid the exacting demands of long-term strategic competition.

If confirmed, I will do my level best to help implement this strategy in a cost-effective and timely manner. The men and women in uniform, as well as the civilians who serve the department, deserve no less from their senior leaders.

I look forward to your questions.